

REMARKS

In the final Office Action mailed January 11, 2002, claims 1, 6 and 8 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Cahill (US Patent No. 5,940,844); claims 2, 4, 5, 7 and 9-10 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cahill in view of Mahmood (US Patent No. 5,091,727); and claim 3 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cahill as modified by Mahmood and further in view of Linstead (US Patent No. 5,548,753).

In the final Office Action mailed January 11, 2002, the Examiner noted that claims 1-10 were pending and rejected claims 1-10. Thus, claims 1-10 remain pending for reconsideration, which is requested.

The forgoing rejections are respectfully traversed. No new matter has been added in this Amendment.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

DISTINCTIONS OF THE CLAIMED PRESENT INVENTION OVER THE PRIOR ART

The Examiner maintains the rejection of claims 1-9 from the previous Office Action and further rejects newly added claim 10 based upon the same rationale rejecting claims 1-9.

The Applicants respectfully assert that Cahill and Mahmood are not substantial evidence (i.e., relevant evidence as a reasonable mind might accept as adequate to support a conclusion, Consolidated Edison Co. v. NLRB, 305 U.S. 197, 229-30 (1938)) to support the rejections, because both references belong to completely different fields than the field of the present invention, thereby not being relevant evidence. The Applicants respectfully assert that the relied upon references are not adequate evidence to support an anticipation as well as an obviousness rejection, as follows:

Present Invention

The invention provides a document reviewing apparatus for reviewing a document by a plurality of reviewers. These reviewers, for example, are located at remote places, or on the same or different floors of a building. Each reviewer possesses the document reviewing apparatus and all these document reviewing apparatuses are connected to each other via a network. Each document reviewing apparatus includes a communication unit performing communication with the other document reviewing apparatuses. The determination unit determines whether the information received from other document reviewing apparatuses is relating to review of a document, which is an object to be reviewed. When the determination unit

determines that the received information is the information relating to review of the document, then such information is stored in the memory. Thus, information relating to review of the document received from the other document reviewing apparatuses is accumulated in the memory. The creating unit creates information that is a combination information, i.e., information relating to review of the document received from the other document reviewing apparatuses, accumulated in the memory. Thus, the information created by the creating unit represents a result on the review of the document undertaken by a plurality of reviewers. A benefit is that the document can be reviewed efficiently and easily by many reviewers. See, for example, Figs. 2-4; and page 14, line 14 to page 19, line 10 of the present Application.

PRIOR ART

Cahill

Cahill does not relate to a document review system. In Cahill a document is not “reviewed” by reviewers in a document review system to produce “a single review result” based upon “review results.” In Cahill a user can view a check on a display screen and no review results are produced or accumulated. In contrast, the present invention as recited in claim 1, “creates a single review result information based on the review result information when a predetermined number of review result information have been stored in said memory unit.”

Cahill discloses a method and apparatus for displaying an image of a check having a front side and a back side. Cahill discloses scanning the check and acquiring images of the front and back sides of the check. Moreover, the scanned images of the check are displayed on a display screen for the user. The user visually checks the displayed images of the check. Thus, Cahill relates to a different field of invention than the present claimed invention.

The ‘check’ of Cahill cannot be the ‘document’ of the present invention, because, many reviewers do not review the check of Cahill. In contrast to Cahill, in the claimed present invention many reviewers review a document. Moreover, the memory of Cahill stores images of the check. In contrast to Cahill, the memory of the present invention stores information relating to document “review results” received from the other document reviewing apparatuses. Moreover, Cahill does not disclose or suggest the present invention’s “creating unit,” which creates an information that is a combination of the document review information accumulated in the memory.

Independent Claims 1, 2, and 6-10

The present invention relates to managing multiple “review result[s] of a reviewed form.”

In particular, the present invention relates to reviewing contents/information in a form. The Examiner appears to assert that Cahill in col. 53, lines 31-44 discloses the present invention's distinguishing feature of "review result of a reviewed form." However, the disclosure in col. 53, lines 31-44 relates to requesting images and viewing the results of requests, which is not related to reviewing content in the images. Although, in Cahill, a user can look at check images and input check related data (Fig. 8, Fig. 10, Fig. 17; col. 46, lines 9-43; col. 46, lines 60-67), in Cahill a user does not generate or provide "review results" based upon reviewing the displayed checks.

Further, the Examiner appears to assert that Cahill in col. 34, lines 10-11 discloses the present invention's distinguishing feature of "a creating unit which creates a single review result information based on the review result information when a predetermined number of review result information have been stored in said memory unit" (claim 1). However, Cahill's disclosure in col. 34, lines 10-11 relates to merging check images into a word processing template and does not relate to merging review results of a reviewed form. In particular, Cahill appears to disclose that a user can create a word processing document with check images as described in Fig. 25; col. 38, lines 60-61; and col. 50, line 24 to col. 51, line 49.

Cahill is silent on using "review result of a reviewed form" and is silent on producing "a single review result" based upon the "review results." Accordingly, rejection of claims 1, 2 and 6-10 over Chaill is not proper because, as regards the anticipation rejection, Cahill does not disclose the identical invention in as complete detail as is contained in the claim (see MPEP 2131). Withdrawal of the rejections based upon Cahill is respectfully requested.

Mahmood and Combination of Cahill and Mahmood

Mahmood discloses a fully automatic parking facility management system, which determines when a vehicle is at a facility entrance, stores the locations of vacated facility parking spots, determines the location of a desirable vacated parking spot in relation to either the facility entrance or the facility exit and prints a parking record for the customer including the computed location (Abstract).

As explained above, the present invention relates to an apparatus for reviewing documents. Similar to Cahill, Mahmood also does not relate to the field of the claimed present invention and there is no relevance between parking of cars disclosed by Mahmood and reviewing of documents in the present invention. In particular, there is no suggestion in Cahill to support a motivation to combine a technology for checking checks taught by Cahill with a technology for parking cars. The Applicants respectfully assert that one cannot obtain a technology for reviewing documents by combining the technology for checking checks with the

technology for parking cars.

Independent Claims 2, 7, 9 and 10.

The Examiner does not provide express rationale for rejecting all of the features of independent claims 2, 7, 9 and 10. For example, Mahmood is silent on the present invention's distinguishing feature of "updating the contents of the reviewed form [. . .] by using statistical data created by said creating unit" based upon "a predetermined number of review result information from a plurality of reviewers" (claim 2).

Mahmood is silent on using "review result of a reviewed form" and is silent on producing "a single review result" based upon the "review results." Further, Mahmood is silent on providing "statistical data relating to the review result information" of contents in a "reviewed form." As discussed above, Cahill is also silent on using "review result of a reviewed form" and is silent on producing "a single review result" based upon the "review results." Therefore, Cahill cannot suggest the distinguishing features of the claimed present invention and, further, Mahmood does not disclose or suggest the distinguishing features of the claimed present invention. Accordingly, rejection of claims 2, 4, 5, 7 and 9-10 over Chaill and Mahmood are not proper because both relied upon references are silent on the distinguishing features of the claimed present invention (see MPEP 2143). Withdrawal of the rejections based upon Cahill and Mahmood is respectfully requested.

In contrast to a would be combined system of Cahill and Mahmood, the present invention (as recited in claims 2, 7, 9 and 10, using recitation of claim 10 as an example) comprises a programmed processor:

to transmit the document to users that review the document via a network, to receive document review results from the users via the network, to generate statistical data based upon the review results, and to update the document based upon the statistical data (emphasis added).

Linstead

Linstead discloses a method for providing an indication of the occurrence of events within a database system. In contrast to Linstead, the present invention (as recited in claim 3) is directed to a document review apparatus that receives document review results for a document from notified reviewers at other document review apparatuses via a network, creates statistical data based upon the received review results, and updates the reviewed document based upon the statistical data.

Finality of Action

Because the relied upon references do not adequately support the rejections, the Applicants respectfully request at least withdrawal of the finality of the action.

RECITATION OF THE CLAIMS

In contrast to the foregoing references, the present invention (as recited in each independent claim 1, 6 and 8, using the recitation of claim 1 as an example) comprises

a determination unit which determines, based on information received from said communication unit, whether the information is information holding a review result of a reviewed form to be reviewed;

a storing control unit which stores information, which has been determined by the determination unit to be information holding a review result of a reviewed form, as review result information in said memory unit; and

a creating unit which creates a single review result information based on the review result information when a predetermined number of review result information have been stored in said memory unit (emphasis added).

In contrast to the foregoing references, the present invention (as recited in each independent claim 2, 7, 9 and claim 10, using the recitation of claim 2 as an example) comprises

a determination unit which determines, based on information received from said communication unit, whether the information is information holding a review result of a reviewed form to be reviewed;

a storing control unit which stores information, which has been determined by the determination unit to be information holding a review result of a reviewed form, as review result information in said second memory unit;

a creating unit which creates statistical data relating to the review result information when a predetermined number of review result information from the plurality of reviewers have been stored in said second memory unit; and

an updating unit which updates the contents of the reviewed form stored in said first memory unit by using the statistical data created by said creating unit.

CONCLUSION

Dependent claims 3-5 (depending, either directly or indirectly, from claim 1) are at least patentably distinguishing due to their dependencies from independent claim 1.

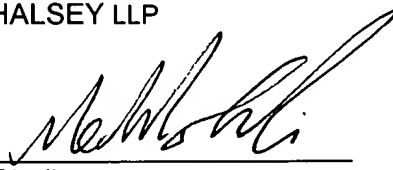
In view of the remarks presented above, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-10 and allowance of claims 1-10 is respectfully requested.

Attached hereto is recitation of pending claims. The attached page is captioned **"Recitation of pending claims."**

If there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

Respectfully submitted,
STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: May 10, 2002

By: 
Mehdi Sheikerz
Registration No. 41,307

700 Eleventh Street, NW, Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20001
(202) 434-1500

RECITATION OF PENDING CLAIMS

IN THE CLAIMS

Recitation of all pending claims is provided for reference convenience.

1. (AS UNAMENDED) A document review apparatus comprising:
a communication unit connected to a network for performing communication with other devices;
a memory unit;
a determination unit which determines, based on information received from said communication unit, whether the information is information holding a review result of a reviewed form to be reviewed;
a storing control unit which stores information, which has been determined by the determination unit to be information holding a review result of a reviewed form, as review result information in said memory unit; and
a creating unit which creates a single review result information based on the review result information when a predetermined number of review result information have been stored in said memory unit.

2. (AS UNAMENDED) A document review apparatus comprising:
a communication unit connected to a network for performing communication with other devices;
a first memory unit which stores a reviewed form which is to be reviewed by a plurality of reviewers;
a second memory unit;
a determination unit which determines, based on information received from said communication unit, whether the information is information holding a review result of a reviewed form to be reviewed;
a storing control unit which stores information, which has been determined by the determination unit to be information holding a review result of a reviewed form, as review result information in said second memory unit;
a creating unit which creates statistical data relating to the review result information when a predetermined number of review result information from the plurality of reviewers have been stored in said second memory unit; and
an updating unit which updates the contents of the reviewed form stored in said first

memory unit by using the statistical data created by said creating unit.

3. (AS UNAMENDED) The document review apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising:

a notification unit which notifies the plurality of reviewers that a reviewed form to be reviewed is stored in said first memory unit; and

a transmission unit which, when information having a predetermined format and comprising address information has been received by said communication unit, uses said communication unit to transmit information which corresponds to the reviewed form stored in said first memory unit to a device identified by said address information.

4. (AS UNAMENDED) The document review apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising:

a display unit for displaying textual information; and

an input unit for inputting commands, wherein

said updating unit including,

a display control unit which allows said display unit to display the contents of the reviewed form stored in said first memory unit in a format enabling an update result using statistical data created by said creating unit to be understood; and

a contents updating unit which updates the contents of the reviewed form stored in said first memory unit based on a command which is input via said input unit while said display control unit is controlling the display.

5. (AS UNAMENDED) The document review apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising:

a second display control unit which allows said display unit to display a graph based on the statistical data created by said creating unit.

6. (AS UNAMENDED) A document review system comprising:

a plurality of document review apparatuses; and

a network which connects said plurality of document review apparatuses, wherein each of said document review apparatus including,

a communication unit connected to a network for performing communication with other devices;

a memory unit;

a determination unit which determines, based on information received from said communication unit, whether the information is information holding a review result of a reviewed form to be reviewed;

a storing control unit which stores information, which has been determined by the determination unit to be information holding a review result of a reviewed form, as review result information in said memory unit; and

a creating unit which creates a single review result information based on the review result information when a predetermined number of review result information have been stored in said memory unit.

7. (AS UNAMENDED) A document review system comprising:

a plurality of document review apparatuses; and

a network which connects said plurality of document review apparatuses, wherein each of said document review apparatus including,

a communication unit connected to a network for performing communication with other devices;

a first memory unit which stores a reviewed form which is to be reviewed by a plurality of reviewers;

a second memory unit;

a determination unit which determines, based on information received from said communication unit, whether the information is information holding a review result of a reviewed form to be reviewed;

a storing control unit which stores information, which has been determined by the determination unit to be information holding a review result of a reviewed form, as review result information in said second memory unit;

a creating unit which creates statistical data relating to the review result information when a predetermined number of review result information from the plurality of reviewers have been stored in said second memory unit; and

an updating unit which updates the contents of the reviewed form stored in said first memory unit by using the statistical data created by said creating unit.

8. (AS UNAMENDED) A computer-readable recording medium which stores programs for allowing a computer to operate as a document review apparatus, said document

review apparatus including,

- a communication unit connected to a network for performing communication with other devices;

- a memory unit;

- a determination unit which determines, based on information received from said communication unit, whether the information is information holding a review result of a reviewed form to be reviewed;

- a storing control unit which stores information, which has been determined by the determination unit to be information holding a review result of a reviewed form, as review result information in said memory unit; and

- a creating unit which creates a single review result information based on the review result information when a predetermined number of review result information have been stored in said memory unit.

9. (AS UNAMENDED) A computer-readable recording medium which stores programs for allowing a computer to operate as a document review apparatus, said document review apparatus including,

- a communication unit connected to a network for performing communication with other devices;

- a first memory unit which stores a reviewed form which is to be reviewed by a plurality of reviewers;

- a second memory unit;

- a determination unit which determines, based on information received from said communication unit, whether the information is information holding a review result of a reviewed form to be reviewed;

- a storing control unit which stores information, which has been determined by the determination unit to be information holding a review result of a reviewed form, as review result information in said second memory unit;

- a creating unit which creates statistical data relating to the review result information when a predetermined number of review result information from the plurality of reviewers have been stored in said second memory unit; and

- an updating unit which updates the contents of the reviewed form stored in said first memory unit by using the statistical data created by said creating unit.

10. (as UNAMENDED) A computer system, comprising:
a programmed processor to store a document, to transmit the document to users that review the document via a network, to receive document review results from the users via the network, to generate statistical data based upon the review results, and to update the document based upon the statistical data.